

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 27 November 2002 at 1830

at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman / Discipline Rep: Classics
	Paul Applegate	-	Discipline Rep: Artistic Disciplines
	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF
	Jim White	-	Discipline Rep: FS (from item 77.5)
In attendance:	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Eddie Jones		
	Martin Shuttleworth		
Observers:	Calvin Blacker		
	Bob Charters		
	Karen Farr		
	Ian Matthews		
	Noel Purcell		
	Kev Sargent		
	James Swallow		
Apologies for absence:	Nigel Holland		Asst to Discipline Rep, Artistic Disciplines

Item Minute

77/02 Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2002

Paul Applegate proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2002 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

78/02 Matters arising

78.1 Page 1, minute 67.1, Swoop Canopies competition

Jim White reported that he had been unable to find coaches to run a training seminar ahead of the proposed Swoop Canopies competition at Target Skysports. Target had therefore decided to run their own competition with local jumpers. The Chairman said that progressing a BPA swoop canopies competition should be an action for the first meeting of the new Competitions Committee next year, in consultation with STC. He said the Danish Sport Parachute Association already had in place a canopy progression system and he was concerned that the UK might get left behind. John Hitchen said that swoop canopies and low hook turns were the subject of lively current debate in Europe, as France was due to ban low hook turns from 1 January 2003.

Action: Next meeting

78.2 Page 1, minute 67.2, Camera equipment Co-ordinator

An updated role description for Frank Mallabone (circulated), which extended his role as Camera Equipment co-ordinator also to include Classics competition equipment, was agreed. Frank Mallabone had kindly agreed to make the Classics equipment available at Drop Zones for Style & Accuracy coaching sessions and seminars, and the Chairman asked Committee members to spread the word.

78.3 Page 2, minute 67.4, New format judges' logbooks

Kate Charters confirmed that the new-style loose-leaf judges' logbooks were on target to be printed in time for distribution at the Judges' seminar on AGM Day on 18 January 2003.

Ongoing

78.4 Page 2, minute 67.7 UK Delegation to WPC Mondial, Gap, 7-14 September 2003

Letters of invitation had been issued to all National Champions, except for Freestyle (see minute 78.6); and Style & Accuracy, for which it was not a selection year.

Ian Marshall reported that Richard Hayden had stood down from the CF 8-way team Hinton-8, and that Paul Yeoman was now running the team.

The Chairman reported that he had received a satisfactory training plan from FS 4-way team XL, who had indicated that they would be available to coach at BPA coaching roadshows ahead of the world meet during June, July and August 2003. XL could now apply for release of the first tranche of funding, by sending in a statement of their costs for the first period of their training. The Chairman had also received a training plan from FS 8-way team VNE, although he had not had the necessary software on his home computer to read the attached budget, which he would arrange to circulate to the Committee. As yet, he had not received a training plan from FS women's 4-way team VMax, but this was expected to follow soon.

78.5 Page 5, minute 71, Pre-registration for junior and intermediate teams with the BPA Office from 1 March 2003

The Committee approved the proposed arrangements (circulated) for pre-registration with the BPA Office for junior and intermediate teams from 1 March 2003. This was to enable teams to register with their jump numbers at the start of the season, from 1 March 2003, rather than have to wait until the first competition of the season. This would enable pre-registered teams to make as many training jumps as they wished, without having to worry about whether this would take their jump numbers over the limit for their category. Pre-registration would *not* be treated as a registration for any competition - all competition registrations would still have to be made by all teams in the normal way. But pre-registered teams would have their jump numbers recorded as at the date of their pre-registration, on or after 1 March 2003, for the purposes of securing eligibility to compete in the junior or intermediate category, as appropriate.

The BPA Office would now prepare a pre-registration form and put a note in the February 2003 issue of Skydive Magazine.

Action: BPA Office

78.6 Page 66, minute 74 Freestyle National Champions

Kate Charters (Judges' Co-ordinator) reported that she had spoken with Dona Crum (Chief Judge, Artistic Disciplines Nationals) and Stuart Meacock. As previously reported, the judges had had to leave the Nationals on the Monday, but Chris Lynch had negotiated with Dona Crum that his team would jump the remaining three rounds on the Tuesday and the video would be sent to Dona Crum for her to judge. Dona Crum had not had much time to judge the tape because she had been involved in judging at another competition. Chris Lynch had been pressing Dona Crum for the result. Dona Crum had then telephoned Stuart Meacock to say his team had won. However, another judge, Sue Scull, had also been involved and had come to a different conclusion. Within half an hour or so, Dona Crum had contacted Stuart Meacock for a second time, this time to say that his team were not National Freestyle Champions and that the previous telephone call had been a mistake. Kate Charters reported that Dona Crum had said that the rules and scoring system supplied by the BPA had been incorrect.

The Committee was sorry to hear this unfortunate tale, especially since it had resulted in a false result being announced, albeit that the error was soon corrected. It was clear that the judging at this meet had been poorly managed. Deviation from normal practice - by agreeing to judge the tapes remotely, in isolation and after the event - had proved to be a hostage to fortune. Lessons had been learned and the Committee resolved that mismanagement such as this must never happen again.

Kate Charters confirmed that the National Freestyle Champions 2002 were Chris Lynch's team *Sebastian Freely*.

The Committee apologised to both Chris Lynch's and Stuart Meacock's teams for the confusion and delay in issuing the result.

79/02 World Cup / European Championships, Empuriabrava: 4-13 October 2002

79.1 Report on the meet

The Committee gave their heartiest congratulations to the FS women's 4-way team *VMax* who had taken Gold in the World Cup in Spain. Many a tear had been shed at the award ceremony when *VMax* had become World Champions again, as the Union flag had been raised to the sound of the national anthem.

The Chairman, who had attended the meet as Delegation Manager, said it had been one of the best-organised world meets he had ever attended. He congratulated the DZ owners of Empuriabrava, on running a first-class event. He also thanked John Hitchen, Head of Delegation, for his hard work as our jury member, and on a range of IPC matters, during the meet.

The Chairman said that the FS 8-way team *VNE* had been superb ambassadors for British skydiving, and had made many friends for the BPA. The 4-way FS team *4Pak* had also worked hard and been good ambassadors. Unfortunately, *4Pak* had not had a good meet, but they had taken it on the chin. The conduct of all of the FS teams had been a credit to their country. Ian Matthews had kindly written a report on the meet for *Skydive Magazine*.

In CF, there had been difficulty in getting a team together. Lessons had been learned from this, and despite coming last of the three teams competing, our 8-way CF team had still come away with the Bronze Medal in the European Championships.

Ian Marshall proposed a vote of thanks to John Smyth from all of the competitors. Ian Matthews had already written to the BPA to express team *VNE*'s thanks to the Chairman.

79.2 Criteria for funding

Ian Matthews of FS 8-way team *VNE* spoke to a paper from the team (circulated) that made the case that the team had in fact met the criteria for funding with its performance at the World Cup 2002 (this being equivalent to fourth place or better at the last world meet). This was because that the goalposts for funding had been moved because the new dive pool had slowed the event down for 2002. The scores that triggered funding had been based on the faster dive pool of WPC 2001. Ian Matthews said that *VNE* had made an application for funding on this basis to the Committee in July - here now was the evidence to substantiate it.

Ian Marshall proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the Competitions Committee would recommend to the full Council that team *VNE* should be funded by the BPA to prepare for WPC Mondial Gap 2003 because:

- there was compelling evidence that the dive pool had slowed down
- *VNE* had been a major contributor to the success of the BPA's Skills Coaching Roadshows, which had benefited Clubs through an increased number of training jumps and a record number of FS competition entries this season

- VNE had not claimed all of their travel and subsistence entitlements for coaching at the Roadshows, leaving the Roadshows budget under spent - it was therefore only fair that VNE should benefit from this.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman said that he personally considered an appropriate amount of funding for VNE to be up to £30K - the same as for teams XL and VMax. This was the basis on which he would put the Committee's case to the full Council.

The Committee noted that there was no case to review possible eligibility of funding for other British teams, based on their performance at the World Cup in October. The Committee noted with regret that Chris Lynch's team had not taken part in either the World Cup or the European Championships in the Artistic Disciplines, at either of which the team would have realistically been in the medal prospects.

79.3 Entry fees

The Chairman reported that, to make administration easier, the BPA had paid the entry fees and accommodation deposits on behalf of the delegation members. These would shortly be recovered from the delegation members. There followed a discussion about whether or not it might be appropriate to propose to the full Council that the entry fees of VMax, and possibly also VNE, should not be recharged to the teams, and should therefore be paid by the BPA. After extensive consideration, the Committee agreed *not* to propose such an arrangement to the Council, as it might create an unfortunate precedent making it difficult to draw the line on what had been a self-funded delegation. In any case, VMax would be able to claim back their jump fees (but not their entry fees) from their BPA funded training budget for WPC Mondial 2003.

80/02 Regional overall placings 2002

The overall regional placings for 2002 (list circulated) had been advised by Kate Charters as follows.

FS: Senior - NRG; Intermediate - Quest; Junior - Sky Pirates

Accuracy: Senior : Glenn Stephenson; Intermediate - Gordon McConnell;
Junior: Lara Jordan

Style: Senior - Glenn Stevenson

CF: Senior - Over the Top; Intermediate - Golden Lions

CF 2-way: Senior - Take Me; Intermediate- Golden Lions A

Artistic: Freestyle - Fat Boy and Slim

Skysurf - Guns 'r' Us (Tony Goodman and Tag Pulham)

Freefly - Euphoria (Gary Sweeney and Alex Cotton)

Freefly intermediate - Byzantium (Martin Smith and Simon Ward)

Calvin Blacker was in attendance to address the Committee on this item, and the Chairman invited him to speak. Calvin Blacker asked that, in the light of the large number of entries at the FS Regional competitions this year, with up to ten teams in some events, the BPA should award a Silver and Bronze medal in the overall regional placings. John Hitchen reported that the cost per medal would be about £5. The Committee noted that, although there had been as many ten teams competing in the junior and intermediate categories, the number of senior teams competing had been much less.

Ian Marshall therefore proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that Regional Overall Silver and Bronze medals should be awarded for 2002 only, and in the FS Junior and Intermediate categories only.

Carried unanimously

81/02 Domestic competition dates and venues 2003

The Chairman reported that he had received an invitation by e-mail from Willy Boykens for the UK to participate in the Benedelux League - comprising Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Luxemburg and the NSL (USA). A decision was not required tonight, so the Chairman would arrange for details to be circulated to members of the Committee in order that it could be discussed at the next meeting. He also asked Kate Charters and John Hitchen to consider the Benelux League rules, competition dates and aircraft to be used to form a view on whether or not it would be logistically possible for the UK to join if it so wished.

Action: Next meeting

Copies of bid forms received were tabled. The Chairman confirmed that these had been confidential, and this was the first time that he, or any Committee member, had seen them. The bids were then considered for each competition in turn. Where representatives of bidding Clubs and Centres were in attendance, the Chairman invited them to speak, and various points were clarified.

The following dates and venues were then agreed.

81.1 British Open Nationals 2003

<i>Discipline</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Dates</i>	
FS	Target Skysports, Hibaldstow	Sats to Mons 26-28 July 2003 (4-way) 2-4 August 2003 (8-way) plus following weekend in reserve	On price Voting: Strathallan: 0, Target: 3 <u>Carried unanimously</u>
CF/Classics Combined	<i>to be arranged</i>		Possible offer to host from Hinton but they cannot confirm until late January 2003.
Artistic Disciplines	Target Skysports, Hibaldstow	Sat to Mon 2-4 August 2003 plus following weekend in reserve	Sole bidder. Lower jump prices offered if held concurrently with FS 8-way Nationals

81.2 Regionals / Grand Prix 2003

<i>Competition</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Dates</i>	
FS 4-way Northern	Skydive Strathallan	Fri-Mon 23-26 May 2003	Voting: St Andrews 0, Stratallan 2, Wild Geese 0 Abstention - 1 (Jim White) <u>Carried</u>
FS 4-way Central	BPS Langar	Sat-Sun 16-17 August 2003	Voting: Target: 0, Langar: 3 <u>Carried unanimously</u>
FS 4-way Southern	Headcorn Parachute Centre	Sat-Sun 10-11 May 2003	Sole bidder from South. Enquire if the Centre will go 50/50 on judges' expenses as dates concurrent with Andy Kelly meet.
FS 8-way Grand Prix	Skydive Strathallan	Fri-Mon 23-26 May 2003	Voting: Strathallan 3, Wild Geese: 0 <u>Carried unanimously</u>
FS 8-way Grand Prix	Target Skysports, Hibaldstow	Sat-Sun 5-6 July 2003	No FS 8-way bids from Southern Clubs, so allocate remaining bids to Target and Langar and call the competition a Grand Prix
FS 8-way Grand Prix	BPS Langar	Sat-Sun 14-15 June 2003	
Classics/ CF Northern	Wild Geese Skydiving Centre	Sat-Sun 28-29 June 2003	St Andrews also bid for CF Northern. Wild Geese sole bidder for CF/ Classics Northern. Voting Wild Geese 2,

			St Andrews 0, Abstention 1 - Jim White <u>Carried</u>
CF Central	BPS Langar	Sat-Sun 27-28 September 2003	Sole bidder from Central Region
CF Southern	Cornwall Parachute Club	Sat-Mon 3-5 May 2003	Sole bidder from Southern Region
Classics Central	<i>to be arranged</i>		No bids: re-issue bid form
Classics Southern	<i>to be arranged</i>		No bids: re-issue bid form

The Chairman thanked all Clubs and Centres that had made bids, and said he was pleased to note that more Centres had bid for some competitions for 2003 than in recent years. He was sorry that not all bids could be successful, and hoped that unsuccessful bidders would bid again next time.

The above dates and venues would be confirmed with the Clubs and Centres concerned, and forwarded to *Skydive Magazine*.

Action: BPA Office

82/02 Selection for WPC 2004

2003 was already an on-year selection year at the Classics Nationals. However, the Chairman reported that it had come to his attention, when speaking to team members from the US delegation at the recent World Cup in Spain, that 2004 was also a date in the IPC calendar for a World Parachute Championships. IPC's idea, apparently, was to tie in the dates with the Olympic calendar. John Hitchen (UK Delegate to IPC) said that, to date, IPC had received no bids for the proposed WPC in 2004. However, the Chairman saw this as no reason to postpone planning for an event that was in the IPC calendar (Sporting Code 2002, Section 5) and that we must therefore treat as definite, just as the USA teams were treating it.

The Chairman said that he saw two options for selection for WPC 2004. The first was to make the 2003 Nationals selection nationals for WPC 2004 in all disciplines except Classics (as the Classics Nationals were already selection nationals for WPC Mondial 2003). This would mean that all the British Teams competing in WPC Mondial 2003 (except Classics) would also have to compete, earlier in the summer, in selection nationals for WPC 2004. The alternative would be to stay for another year with the selection for 2003. These options, together with any other possibilities there might be, would be thrown open for discussion with competitors at the Competitions Open Forum on AGM day. It was clear, however, that the British weather ruled out the US solution of holding the 2003 selection Nationals *after* WPC Mondial 2003 in September 2003.

Action: Discuss at Open Forum on AGM Day

83/02 Judging matters

83.1 Evaluation of judges' logbooks 2002

Kate Charters reported that she had received and checked the logbooks of all current judges (except for Roger Flinn, who had not sent in his logbook - see minute 82.2 below). She had found these to be satisfactory, and was preparing a list for the BPA Office of judges who would be entitled to free-of-charge Associate Membership in 2003 in recognition of their services as judges.

Kate Charters was delighted to report that two new national judges' ratings would be presented on AGM Day 2003: Ruth Cooper in Fs and David McLagan in CF.

Kate Charters reported that a friend of judge Sue Skull had telephoned the BPA Office asking how to get news of Sue Skull's "recent national judges ratings in Artistic Disciplines" into *Skydive Magazine*. The Office had advised the friend to contact Kate Charters, who

confirmed that no judges' ratings had yet been awarded to Sue Skull, as Kate Charters had not seen evidence that Sue Skull had yet completed the necessary three evaluations. The Chairman asked the Office to double-check that no misinformation about this would appear in the December issue of *Skydive Magazine*.

Action: BPA Office

83.2 Letter from Roger Flinn

Kate Charters tabled a response to a letter in which Roger Flinn had expressed his personal dis-satisfaction with a number of arrangements relating to judges. Kate Charters reported that the arrangements were working well for all other judges, and she was concerned that Roger Flinn appeared to be reluctant to come into the BPA's now well-established administrative system. The issues he had raised in his letter all had a simple explanation, which usually stemmed from him not responding to letters from Kate Charters in her capacity as Judges' Co-ordinator, or from doing his own thing without reference to the Judges Co-ordinator. It was hardly surprising, therefore, that things were not running smoothly from Roger Flinn's perspective, but the fact was this was down to him.

There had been a suggestion in Roger Flinn's letter that he might judge for another National Governing Body. The Chairman said that Roger Flinn's expertise was widely recognised internationally, but his strained relations over with the BPA judging matters could not go on any longer, as attempts to build bridges in recent years had clearly come to little, as evidenced by Roger Flinn's letter.

Rather than enter into argument over the issues that Roger Flinn had raised, the Committee agreed that the Chairman should write to him to offer him the opportunity either to be one of the BPA's judges - working to the same administrative rules and procedures as all other judges, under the co-ordination of the BPA Judges' Co-ordinator, or to withdraw from judging for the BPA. There could be no halfway house or special arrangements.

Further, the BPA had to date signed off Roger Flinn's application for assistance with the cost of his travel to the annual IPC meeting. The application form for 2003/4 was expected soon, and the Committee decided that, unless Roger Flinn was prepared to be a BPA judge, it would be inappropriate for the BPA to sign off an application from him to UK Sport for funding to attend the 2004 IPC meeting.

The Chairman emphasised that this position was not of the Committee's -or the Judges' Co-ordinator's - own making and the situation needed to be regularised for the benefit of all parties, as the system would only work if everyone was singing from the same hymn sheet.

83.3 Nomination of judges for international events

The Chairman raised the question of how the nomination of Karla Cole to be a judge at the World Cup 2002 had failed to be made. He said that, if had she been nominated, the nomination would have been likely to have been taken up. In discussion, it emerged that the problem had been that John Hitchen and Kate Charters had both believed that the other person had made the nomination, with the unfortunate consequence that neither had in fact put forward Karla Cole's name to the IPC Judges' Co-ordinator. The Committee resolved that, in future, nominations would be made through the BPA Office and be copied out to the Committee for monitoring purposes. The Chairman would write a letter of apology to Karla Cole.

Action: Chairman

Kate Charters would confirm to the BPA Office the names of the judges to be nominated to WPC Mondial 2003, who she said would be herself and Bob Charters and Karla Cole, plus Bob King for Classics. There would be no nominated judges from the UK in the Artistic Disciplines.

Action: Kate Charters / BPA Office

84/02 Briefing of IPC Delegate

The Committee asked John Hitchen (UK Delegate to IPC) to express strong concern at the IPC meeting to be held in Brazil on 1-3 February 2003 in Brazil at the scheduling of WPC's 'back to back' in successive years, such as in 2003 and 2004. The Committee's position was

that this was wholly inappropriate scheduling on the part of IPC, even in pursuit of the Olympic dream. The Committee asked John Hitchen to make strong representations to seek to ensure that WPC's were never scheduled again in two successive years.

The Committee also gave an official mandate to John Hitchen to vote **against** the proposal to be considered at IPC to reduce the number of countries allowed to compete in future World Championships.

85/02 Competitions budget 2002/3

The Chairman reported that the competitions budget for the current year, 2002/3, was underspent to date. This gave scope for more Skills Coaching Roadshows to be organised during the period from April to June 2003, the current year's budget coming to an end with the financial year ending on 30 June 2003. A budget allocation for more Coaching Roadshows would, however, be considered for the new Action Plan year beginning on 1 July 2003.

86/02 Coaching Roadshows for women skydivers

The Chairman reported that he had held informal discussions with Lesley Gale and Kate Stephens, organisers of *Brit Chicks 2002*, about the possibility of extending the philosophy of that successful event into positive action to encourage more women to enter, compete and stay in the sport. It had been suggested that this might best be achieved through a series of BPA skills coaching roadshows for women, for which Lesley Gale, Kate Stephens and, to a lesser extent (because of their other commitments) VMax might coach. The Chairman said he strongly supported such an initiative, as women were an under-represented group in UK skydiving. He suggested that these *Brit Chicks* roadshows might be the subject of separate budget allocation in the Competitions Action Plan matrix for 2003/4, which would be discussed at an informal Committee meeting immediately after the inaugural Council meeting on 18 January 2003 (see below).

87/02 Date of next meeting

The first meeting of the new Competitions Committee 2003 would be a short, informal meeting held immediately after the inaugural meeting of the Council 2003, at lunchtime on Saturday 18 January 2003 in Room 18 of the Hanover International Hotel, Hinckley, Leicestershire. This would be to draft the Competitions Action Plan matrix for the year 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, which had to be ready for consideration by the Council meeting in February, for subsequent submission to UK Sport.

The first ordinary meeting of the Competitions Committee would be held on Wednesday 12 February 2003 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Leicester.

The Chairman closed by thanking all Committee Members, Competitors who had attended Committee meetings, and staff, for their hard work and support during the year.

The meeting closed at 2240.